

The Watauga Democrat.

Advertising Rates on Request.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BOONE, AND WATAUGA COUNTY.

\$1.00 Per Year

VOL. XXXII.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C. THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 1921.

NO 43

Missionary Block Writes.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT: The first day of June was about the hottest day we have had. Brother Lawrence and I started for an extended tour in the country, visiting groups of Christians and preaching as we had opportunity to people along the way. On the second day out the wind changed and the third day we had a good rain and a northeast blow which made it very cool for June. It was nearing wheat harvest and the people generally busy, and at night when they got through with their work they were very tired. But notwithstanding we wanted to make our remarks and do what we could to encourage the Christians and inquirers, and in addition we wanted to explore some new territory in the hills along roads we had never traveled before, and this we could do when the people were busy as well as at other times, even though we would not have so much opportunity to preach to them. Soon we found ourselves in the midst of a silk-raising district, and in addition to the wheat harvest they were busy with their silk worms. It would take too long to go into details of this silk raising, but it is truly an interesting process, and I learned more about it this trip than ever before. This province produces lots of silk, and in many places, especially in the hills, it is their money crop.

As a rule the scenery in this section of China, especially in the winter, even in the mountains and hills, is dull and barren, but in June the landscape looks its best. I had gone over most of the region we had passed through in the winter and in it all I saw little to interest and attract, but this time I never tired of looking. It all seemed glorious, "and every prospect pleased and only man was vile." I will never forget one view from a prominent peak in these hills. It took about two hours for us to walk from the town where we were stopping a day or two in the home of one of the Christians to the top of this hill. On our way up our vision of the surrounding country below broadened and on a shoulder of this hill before reaching there we rested and had a season of prayer together, then walked to the top of the mountain, where we got a view that beggars description, and I can only call attention to what fell under our vision south and south west. All that lay before us as far as we could see were fields and towns and villages. The scene was like one vast sea of golden grain ready for harvest, with clusters of green trees about the towns and villages and green growing fields of millet and kaffir corn interspersed with the ripening wheat. I thought not only of the beauty of the scene before us, but of what a wonderful amount of grain ready for harvest. A great harvest indeed it was, but nothing to stagger, for there were many, many laborers who in a few days would come out from the towns in throngs and swarms like bees and soon gather the last straw, and in most places even dig up the roots for fuel. No lack of laborers in this harvest. When all was harvested, thousands of poor gleaners stood with mouths watering for more harvest from which to glean more crumbs. Who could look upon such a scene and not think of another harvest without laborers? Under our eyes were hundreds and hundreds of towns and villages with millions of people in them. And in all that re-

gion scarcely as many as one hundred Christians. And the vast majority of these towns were not only unevangelized but had scarcely heard the first word of the gospel. The harvest, the harvest, how shall I depict it? To what can I compare it? This sea of humanity, this ocean of lost souls, who can fathom it? Where are the laborers? Who is crying to the Lord of the harvest for them? Who is saying "Here I am; send me?" Don't let us push this aside and say it is none of our affair. Are you a Christian? Are you saved? Then you have a part. Come if you can. You can do nothing greater for the Master who died for you. If you can't come then do what you can to send others. "I am not able," some one may say. "I have no money and no way of making it." Then pray! Pray now for the Lord of the harvest for those now in the field. God forgive us for excuses, for not having a part in this harvest. O, if we really want a part God will give it to us. Try and see if he will not, and new springs of joy will break out in your life. There is nothing on earth like having a part in saving lost souls. It is by no means all smooth sailing with the Christians, for they are just fallen human beings like ourselves, and have their weaknesses from within and trials and persecutions and temptations from without. Our hearts ache for them at times we see what they have to meet. When we think of their environment and of the "pit from whence they have been digged" we marvel that any of them stand against the forces of darkness about them. They need our prayers more than we think. In one town where we had a few Christians a dear old Christian woman 65 or more years old, seemed almost driven to the wall by false theories, ridicule and persecution. After talking with her a while and having prayer with her and her son and a few others we felt more encouraged for this dear soul.

But I must cut short my story of this trip because my journey was cut short and my plans broken into. Brother Abernathy came for me and found me forty-six miles away from home. My wife had suddenly fallen very ill with pleurisy. I took Brother Abernathy's bicycle and rode in the day after he arrived. It was a long 46 miles to me, and I was tired enough when I arrived at home, for I had not ridden a wheel for over twelve years. But I was glad to be at home by my wife's side, doing what I could to comfort and help. After about a week the pleurisy began to break up, but pneumonia developed and my wife has now been in bed three weeks. We are truly thankful that the crisis has passed and she is on the road to recovery, but she is still in bed and very weak, and it will be many days before she is strong again—maybe until the end of the summer.

It seems I have had my share of afflictions and illness in my family in China, but God forbid that I should complain, for out of these very sorrows and afflictions have come blessings that money cannot purchase. God has been doing the best He could with His obstreperous child.

Pray for us all and our work.
T. L. BLALOCK.
Tai On Fu, June 30, 1921.

Will Repatriate Hungarians.
Budapest.—An agreement between Hungary and Soviet Russia for the repatriation of the Hungarian prisoners in Russia was signed July 28 at Riga, it was announced here.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

America Undertakes the Relief of Russia, Stricken With Famine and Pest.

CHOLERA SPREADING FAST

Supreme Council Assembles in Paris—President Harding Attends Pilgrim Tercentenary Fete—Sweet Bill for Disabled Veterans Finally Passed by Congress.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Americans who have long been held prisoners by the Russian Bolsheviks have been released, unless latest reports are misleading, and America, unofficially but energetically, has gone to the relief of the starving, pestilence stricken Russians. Agents of Mr. Hoover's organization already are distributing food and medicines, and the American Red Cross and other agencies are co-operating in the tremendous task. Walter L. Brown is directing the relief measures from Riga, and there is no lack of volunteers for the work in Russia, for scores of persons of many nationalities have offered their services, some being actuated by curiosity, some by altruism and some by the desire to get into Russia to find out what has become of relatives and friends.

Premier Briand of France has suggested that the supreme council, in session this week in Paris, consider allied co-operation with America in the Russian relief work.

Famine conditions, it appears, exist mainly in the great Volga valley, and the inhabitants are moving from it in vast hordes. The Russian authorities are trying to direct the flight of the refugees toward Siberia and the Ukraine and to keep them away from the cities. It is the swift spread of cholera that is alarming the nations bordering Russia on the west. Some of these, notably Poland, have mobilized large numbers of troops along their frontiers to turn back the hordes that are carrying the pest along with them. Despite these precautions, Berlin papers say cholera already has appeared in Warsaw and that there is danger of an epidemic of the disease in Danzig and other sea ports. The soviet commissioner of health says the task of fighting the pestilence is made terribly difficult by the horrible sanitary condition throughout virtually the entire country, and by the "mass migration, as it had been maliciously planned, distributing the infection from one place to another for thousands and tens of thousands of versts. The starving population of the Volga is moving to the south as an avalanche, sowing on its way infection and death."

Help from the outside world, though besought by Lenin, is looked on with suspicion by some of his more radical colleagues. They declare the plight of soviet Russia will be taken advantage of by the enemies of Bolshevism who will plan new counter-revolutions. That some of the latter have the same idea is indicated by the fact that Alexander Kerensky has been conferring with the French government. It is reported that he expects the downfall of Lenin and Trotsky, and that France might proffer him support and endorse Russia's claim to possession of Constantinople if he could establish a stable government which would guarantee the payment of Russia's old debt to France. Italy, too, might favor this; but Great Britain wants Greece to have the Turkish capital.

Moscow on Wednesday sent out a wireless message asking all other governments to evacuate their nationals from southern Russia as soon as possible because there was no food for them. The foreigners, it is said, were to leave from Odessa, but as all transportation has broken down there is seemingly no way for them to reach that city from the interior. It is not only transportation that has broken down. The present crisis has brought

to light figures that show the almost absolute collapse of industry and production under the soviet regime. Paper and coal are the only industries showing in 1920 an output of as much as 20 per cent of the pre-war production.

As has been said, the interallied supreme council is now in session in Paris. The main topic for discussion is the Upper Silesian question, which is being handled by the representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. Colonel Harvey, American ambassador to England, also was invited to attend, and if the question of war guilt comes up the representatives of Belgium will be asked to participate. In conciliating France, the other allies have admitted the possi-

bility or probability of sending reinforcements for the Silesian garrison and have told Berlin to provide for their transportation across Germany—which Berlin probably will do, though with bad grace. Germany continues to accuse the Poles of committing shocking outrages on the German inhabitants of Silesia, and the French of giving the Poles support, and Berlin has issued a White Book to substantiate these charges.

It was announced in Washington that soon after the President's return from his New England holiday, the formal invitations to the conference on limitation of armaments and far eastern questions would be issued. Mr. Harding still favors November 11—Armistice day—for the opening date, and the other powers may agree to this. Great Britain has abandoned any idea of a preliminary conference on Pacific matters since the American government has expressed its entire willingness that the agenda for the conference shall be arranged upon in advance. Conversations in regard to the program will begin immediately after the issuance and acceptance of the formal invitations.

Speaking at the tercentenary celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims, in Plymouth, Mass., President Harding declared his belief that the disarmament conference would bring to the whole world a new era of peace and freedom. Said he: "The international prospect is more than promising and the distress and depression at home are symptomatic of early recovery. Solvent financially, sound economically, unrivaled in genius, unexcelled in industry, resolute in determination and unwavering in faith, these United States will carry on."

President Harding went to Plymouth by water, and after attending the Pilgrim fete he had several days of rest at Secretary Weeks' country home in the mountains near Lancaster, N. H. During his absence the congressional conference committee, after long and seemingly inexcusable delay, agreed on the Sweet soldier relief bill, and its report was adopted by both houses. It was a certainty that the President would lose no time in affixing his signature to this law, which will reorganize and consolidate the various government agencies for the relief and care of the veterans of the great war who through wounds or illness or lack of employment are in need of assistance.

The unemployment situation as it affects the ex-service men, is decidedly serious, especially of course in the large cities. It is said that in Chicago, for instance, hundreds of them are walking the streets, jobless and homeless, and one post of the American Legion has asked the governor of Illinois to have the National Guard armories thrown open to them, and some arrangement made for giving them plain food until they can find employment.

David H. Blair, commissioner of internal revenue, has been prying into the conduct of affairs in his bureau and has made such discoveries that he has ordered Assistant Commissioner Matson to make a thorough investigation. The serious charges against employees that are said to have been made, include the giving out of income tax statements, in violation of law, to persons who desired them for profitable purposes; collusion between persons within the bureau in a position to divulge confidential information with representatives of corporations with cases pending before the bureau; collusion of employees and outside persons in business ventures dependent upon secret information within the department, and charges that some employees have accepted money in assisting corporations and individuals to reduce their tax of one character or another.

Other charges relate to employees in the prohibition enforcement wing, involving them in aiding persons to get possession of liquor for illegal purposes and in suppressing evidence that might lead to detection and prosecution of offenders.

British shipping interests and those of America as represented by the federal shipping board are entering a war for cargoes that may have far-reaching results. It all started with the efforts of some American ship operators to get a share of the cotton carrying business from Egypt. They were told the British ship owners would fight to the finish to hold on to all of that business, whereupon the London representative of the board warned the British that retaliatory measures would be adopted. Both sides have cut rates, and the American board has reduced insurance valuations to meet the competition. The question involved, says a statement from Chairman Lasker's office, is whether British ship owners are going to keep the American merchant marine from getting its fair share of the business on the sea. "The world may as well know that we are going

to establish what American rights are and then get those rights."

The seven former members of the Chicago White Sox ball team and two alleged accomplices who were charged with conspiring to throw games in the world's series of 1919, have been acquitted by a Chicago jury, apparently because the jurors did not think the specific intent to defraud the public and the baseball owners was established by the prosecution. At once the question arose whether or not the players should be reinstated in organized baseball. Judge Landis, high commissioner of baseball, replied promptly and decisively that "no player who undertakes or promises to throw a ball game, no player who sits in a conference with a bunch of crooked players and gamblers where the ways and means of throwing games are planned and does not promptly tell his club about it will ever play professional baseball."

As to the moral guilt of the accused ball players, the American public has had little or no doubt, and its belief will not be altered by the verdict of the jury which probably was made necessary by the technicalities of the law.

Death stilled forever the magnificent voice of Enrico Caruso last week, and all the world mourns. The great operatic tenor, who was stricken with a serious illness in America last year, seemed well on the road to recovery and had returned to Italy to recuperate. But an interior abscess accompanied by severe peritonitis developed and he died in Naples before the surgeons could operate. The funeral services were most impressive, and were attended by representatives of the royal family and the government of Italy and by officials of the United States, in which country he achieved his greatest triumphs. The last requiem was rendered by 400 singers.

It looks as if the federal authorities were on the point of clearing up the long series of big postal and bond robberies in various parts of the country. John W. Worthington of Chicago, well known to the police of this and other lands, has been arrested as the "brains" of the gang, and others have been taken into custody or are being hunted. The authorities declare that they have evidence to prove that Worthington and his associates engineered the \$3,000,000 Sinclair Oil company robbery in New York, the Dearborn station mail robbery in Chicago, the Council Bluffs (Ia.) mail robbery and numerous other important recent crimes. The prosecutors also have proof that the accused have been dealing largely in "doctored" Liberty bonds and washed savings stamps.

Grand Encampment of I. O. O. F.

The Grand Encampment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of North Carolina met in its 74th annual session August 9th in the hall of Buena Vista Lodge, No. 21, in the city of Greensboro. At the afternoon session the Grand Encampment degree was conferred on new members, the reports of the grand officers submitted various committees appointed and matters of routine business transacted.

On Tuesday night the degree staff of Asheville Encampment No. 2 conferred the Patriarchal, Golden Rule and Royal Purple degrees on a number of candidates. This is probably the best encampment degree staff in North Carolina and a large number of members of the Patriarchal branch of the order were present to witness this exemplification of the encampment degrees.

The officers of the Grand Encampment are as follows, Grand Patriarch, C. H. Reine, Raleigh; Grand High Priest, A. C. Melvin, Durham; Grand Senior Warden, J. C. Wright, Shiloh; Grand Junior Warden, D. W. Davis, Goldsboro; Grand Scribe, L. W. Jeaner, Asheville; Grand Treasurer, J. N. E. Wood, Wilmington; Grand Marshal, H. A. Ballard, Asheville; Grand Sentinel, D. R. Aiken, Greensboro; Grand Outside Sentinel, H. G. Godfrey, Elizabeth City; Grand Representative, John D. Berry, Raleigh.

Decrease in Pellagra.

Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary of the State Board of Health, has returned from Washington, where he has been in conference with other public health officials from the South and representatives of the Federal bureau of health and Red Cross officials.

Dr. Rankin has stated that so far as the records of his office show there has been a decrease in pellagra.

The Coming Legion Convention.

Hendersonville and her environs will be turned over completely to the former service men when they gathered there for the annual convention of the North Carolina state department of the American legion on August 26-27. The statement of Walter B. Smith, of Hendersonville, chairman of the entertainment features

GOOD COLLECTIONS FROM AUTO OWNERS

RECEIPT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY REACHED TOTAL OF \$1,498,498.25.

INTEREST PAID BY GASOLINE

Chairman of the Highway Commission Says Sum Collected Will be Spent Before End of Present Month.

Raleigh. Automobile tax collected by the state for the month of July amounted to \$1,498,498.25 and the gasoline tax for the same period, amounting to \$87,477.91, ran the state's revenue from two sources alone well above the million and a half mark.

The gasoline tax is in excess of the collections for June while the automobile tax is a little under the month previous. There are many licenses yet to be renewed and the total tax on automobiles for the season, independent of the "floating" collections at other periods of the year, will run the amount well above \$3,000,000.

The gasoline tax goes to pay the interest on the outstanding notes for construction funds while the bigger sums are being used exclusively for construction purposes. Chairman Frank Page, of the state highway commission, has informed State Treasurer Lacy that the sum collected during the rush season will be spent before the end of the present month.

With these expenditures on the roads, the state will then touch for the second time its \$10,000,000 allowance for the year.

Postmaster Examinations.

Washington, (Special)—Examinations will be held September 10 for postmasters at the following places: Angier, Badin, Beanners, Bayboro, Black Mountain, Candler, Cannon, Caroleen, Clarkton, Cleveland, Cliffside, Coanolly Springs, Coolemore, Council, Elton College, Fletcher, Franklin, Garryburg, Hope Hills, Hendersonville, Lake Junaluska, Lakeville, Lowell, Mayodan, Moncure, Mount Pleasant, Morven, Newport, Parkton, Pineoaks, Polkton Pomona, Princeton, Richlands, Rural Hall, Sanatorium, Seaboard, Sparta, Stony Point, Treaton, Vass, Weaverville, West Jefferson, Whiteakers, Whittier, Woodland.

Chairman L. Sims has been appointed postmaster at Harrisburg, Cabarrus county, vice Dwight L. Morrison, resigned.

Probable Compromise on Power.

Negotiations looking to a compromise of the differences over power rates now existing between the cotton mills and the Southern Power company are well under way, according to semi-official information given out here.

It is expected here that an agreement will be reached within the next few days by which all litigation save that involving the North Carolina Public Service company, will be stopped.

Charter for Peanut Growers.

The peanut growers of Virginia and North Carolina have secured the charter for their new and enlarged organization, which will bear the short and expressive name "Peanut Growers Exchange, Inc." The minimum capital stock is placed at \$151,000. Of this amount \$100,000 is common and \$1,000 preferred stock.

The Southern Training School.

The Southern Training School for Christian Leadership will be held at Pine Ridge the week of August 23 to September 1. It will be under the auspices of the Sunday School associations of South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. This is the first year for this training school, which promises to become an annual institution.

New Chaplain of N. S. U. C. V.

General James I. Motts announces the appointment of Rev. Edmond Joyner, of Edgemont, as chaplain of the North Carolina Division of the United Confederate Veterans.

Meeting of Guernsey Breeders.

The mid-summer meeting of the North Carolina Guernsey Breeders association will be held at "Belmont Farms," F. H. and J. L. Reall, owners, Linwood, Davidson county, Thursday, August 25th, according to announcement made by T. D. Brown secretary.

Among the speakers are R. H. L. Chicester, of Frederickburg, Va.; R. M. Hooper, of Wiscoky, S. C.; W. W. Fitzpatrick, of Clemson College, S. C.; and J. A. Arey, dairy division, Department of Agriculture, Raleigh. There will be two sessions daily.